



LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA

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Library of Virginia to Award Honorary Patron of Letters Degree to Four Distinguished Virginians

RICHMOND, VIRGINIA – The Library of Virginia announced today that best-selling author David Baldacci and his wife, Michelle, a passionate literacy advocate; renowned poet and educator Nikki Giovanni; and award-winning children's author Meg Medina will be honored with the Library's honorary Patron of Letters degree.

The Patron of Letters degree, granted by the Library Board, is the Library of Virginia's highest honor. The honorary degree recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to the fields of history, library science, the literary arts or archival science. Each of the 2023 honorees has distinguished themselves through their efforts to promote libraries through literature, literacy advocacy and poetry.

"The Library Board is thrilled to honor these four outstanding individuals for their important work in Virginia and across the country on behalf of libraries, readers, literacy and the community," said C. Paul Brockwell Jr., Library Board chair. "We are excited to recognize these accomplished honorees during the Library's 200th anniversary year."

The Library will present the degrees during the 26th Annual Virginia Literary Awards Celebration on Oct. 14. Tickets can be purchased at www.lvafoundation.org/tickets.

The Virginia Literary Awards honor Virginia writers and celebrate their contributions to the literary landscape of the commonwealth and the country. The awards—given in the categories of poetry, fiction and nonfiction—are presented at the annual awards celebration, which has become the Library's signature event and an eagerly anticipated cultural tradition in Richmond.

For more information about the Virginia Literary Awards, visit <https://www.lva.virginia.gov/public/litawards/>.

Related images are available here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/29qbwukjv3ijnld/AACY9DdOipVqs6424XlZC1qJa?dl=0>

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ABOUT THE LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA

The Library of Virginia is the state's oldest institution dedicated to the preservation of Virginia's history and culture. Our online offerings attract nearly 4 million website visits per year, and our resources, exhibitions and events bring in nearly 100,000 visitors each year. The Library's collections, containing more than 130 million items, document and illustrate the lives of both famous Virginians and ordinary citizens. The Library is located in downtown Richmond near Capitol Square at 800 East Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23219. Learn more at lva.virginia.gov.